

REMARKS

Introduction

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 have been allowed, and claims 26 and 27 have been cancelled. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the claim amendments: (a) place this application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein), (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution as indicated in the Final Office Action), (c) present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal (should an appeal be necessary), and (d) are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Office Action.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Objection to claim 26:

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 26 has been cancelled, and therefore the objection to this claim is rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(b): Morita:

Claims 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,265,869 to Morita. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 26 and 27 have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot and placing this application in condition for allowance.

Serial No.: 10/684,417
Docket No.: 102-1001
Amendment dated: March 2, 2007
Reply to the Final Office Action of January 3, 2007

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

STANZIONE & KIM, LLP

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919 18th St., NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 775-1900
Facsimile: (202) 775-1901

By: 

Manuel A. Cordovez
Registration No. 58,480